



## **Washington State Department of Transportation**

### **Department of Transportation's 2001–2003 Budget**

#### **Improvements to highways and bridges - \$1.7 billion**

- **Preserving what we have** -- \$578 million for projects to preserve the structural integrity of existing highways and bridges. Projects scheduled for this biennium include repairing roads and bridges damaged by the Nisqually earthquake and beginning the replacement of the east half of the Hood Canal Bridge. There's not enough money to complete the paving projects needed.
- **Adding capacity** -- \$847 million for highway improvement projects to increase the capacity of the roadways, such as rebuilding Issaquah's Sunset interchange on Interstate 90 and adding carpool lanes in Snohomish County on Interstate 5 up to US 2 and on Interstate 5 from the Pierce County line to Tukwila.
- **Decreasing traffic congestion** -- \$57 million for programs that help relieve traffic congestion, such as continuing the Highway Service Patrol Program on four sections of Interstate 5 and State Route 16 to Gig Harbor, adding traffic control devices, increasing the incident response activity, and adding an electronic weighing system that allows trucks to bypass weigh stations.
- **Improving safety for motorists** -- \$133 million
  - ❑ \$53 million for removing ice from highways and keeping ten mountain passes plowed for safer driving.
  - ❑ \$18 million for mowing grasses and keeping vegetation clear to better enable drivers to see approaching signs and deer. This money also pays for removing roadside weeds that are poisonous to wildlife.
  - ❑ \$47 million to keep traffic signals and lights along highways working, and to maintain electronic signs used for emergencies or detouring traffic.
  - ❑ \$7 million to remove hazardous objects, such as tire parts, from roadways.
  - ❑ \$8 million to clean and maintain the highway rest areas, which provide relief for weary drivers.
- **Keeping roadways drivable** -- \$92 million
  - ❑ \$32 million for patching potholes and sealing cracks.
  - ❑ \$25 million for cleaning culverts, ditches, and catch basins to move the water off the highways to keep them strong.
  - ❑ \$22 million to repair bridges and to operate moving bridges.
  - ❑ \$13 million to replace signs, guardrails, and other things damaged by motorists.

- **Litter pickup** -- \$9 million
- **Taking care of the environment**
  - \$6 million to sweep highway shoulders to prevent the roadway dirt from polluting the air, streams, and environment.

### **Washington State Ferries - \$509 million**

- The existing level of auto service and weekday passenger ferry service between Vashon and Seattle, and Bremerton and Seattle will continue.
- Maintenance repairs on terminals will be done at Clinton, Anacortes, Southworth, Bainbridge Island, Eagle Harbor, Fauntleroy, Seattle, and Kingston.
- Maintenance repairs will be done on six ferries.
- A new passenger-only ferry will be purchased if two older ferries are sold.

### **Trains and buses - \$69 million**

- Passenger train service of two daily round trips between Seattle and Portland, and two round trips north of Seattle, one to Bellingham, and one to Vancouver, B.C., will continue.
- Limited money for rail construction projects to improve Amtrak Cascades service and safety was provided. One rail crossover will be constructed and Vancouver and Kelso-Martin Bluff environmental and engineering work will continue.
- Washington Fruit Express, a new rail service to help farmers get produce to market faster, was partially funded.
- Grant funding to foster rural transit projects was provided at a level similar to the past two years.
- Trip reduction, a program that provides money to local jurisdictions to help them encourage commuters to use alternatives to driving to work alone, was funded at a level one third lower than the past two years.

### **Fewer employees**

- The budget reduces administrative funding by \$23.5 million, including the equivalent of 48 full-time employees.

### **Total**

The budget is \$2.7 billion, compared to \$2.5 billion for the past two years.